



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/559,817 | 12/08/2005 | Yuichi Iwamoto | 2005_1867A | 7356 |
| 513 7590 05/12/2009 WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite 400 East Washington, DC 20005-1503 | | | | |
| EXAMINER KUMAR, RAKESH | | | | |
| ART UNIT 3651 | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| MAIL DATE 05/12/2009 | | DELIVERY MODE PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/559,817

Applicant(s)

IWAMOTO, YUICHI

Examiner

RAKESH KUMAR

Art Unit

3651

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3 and 6-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-346855A.

Referring to claim 10 and 11. JP 2002-346855A (JP'855) discloses a device for supplying snap rings (S; Figure 1), the device comprising:

a magazine (M) containing C-shaped snap rings (S) piled together each of which has a gap (See Figure 7b);

an extrusion member (10) that pushes out a snap ring (S) occupying a lowest position in the magazine (M) so that the gap of the snap ring is directed forwardly in an extruding direction (Figure 8);

a conveying path (P1) that conveys the snap ring (S) pushed out by the extrusion member (10; 15) to an area in which the snap ring is contracted to reduce a diameter (Figure 4) of the snap ring (S);

a projection-strip guide wall (42) formed to stand upwardly (Figure 6) in a substantially vertical direction with a width with which the projection-strip guide wall (42)

can enter the gap of the snap ring in a termination area of the conveying path (See Figure 9a); and a restricting mechanism that restricts the gap of the snap ring so that the gap is directed in a direction from the magazine to the projection-strip guide wall.

(JP'855) discloses a device for supplying snap rings (S; Figure 1), the device wherein the restricting mechanism includes:

an oscillating member (14) having a long guide part (15), the guide part being protractible and retractable with respect to a conveying surface (20) of the conveying path (21a) and having a width that can enter the gap (Figure 3); and an urging member that urges the oscillating member so that the guide part protrudes from the conveying surface (13).

(JP'855) discloses a device for supplying snap rings (S; Figure 1), wherein the guide part of the oscillating member is formed to enter the gap of the snap ring occupying the lowest position in the magazine (M) in a stand-by state in which the snap ring (S) has not yet been pushed out.

(JP'855) discloses a device for supplying snap rings (S; Figure 1), further comprising a cover member (cover of magazine M) disposed above the projection-strip guide wall (Figure 8a-8e), the cover member have a guide part formed to guide the gap of the snap ring (S) downwardly so as to direct the gap of the snap ring conveyed by the extrusion member (15) toward the projection-strip guide wall.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 5 allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/08/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See rejection above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAKESH KUMAR whose telephone number is (571) 272-8314. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gene Crawford/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3651

/RAKESH KUMAR/
Examiner, Art Unit 3651